

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 14, and 16 as shown below:

1. (Twice Amended) A network architecture for the management of one or more of a plurality of storage devices by one or more clients comprising;

a storage system including a plurality of storage devices;

a plurality of host computers, each host computer including at least one agent for transmitting data to and retrieving data from one or more of the plurality of storage devices;

one or more clients; and

one or more storage management servers in communication with, at least one agent, the one or more clients and the plurality of storage devices, the one or more storage management servers providing information received from an agent and relating to the operation status of the storage devices to the one or more clients via an object-oriented dynamic linking mechanism so that the one or more clients can manage one or more storage devices of the plurality of storage devices.

14. (Twice Amended) The network architecture of claim 1 wherein each of the one or more storage management servers includes:

a poller for gathering information relating to the operation status of the storage device; and

a central repository for storing information relating to the operation status of said one of the storage devices; and

an object server for distributing the information relating to the operation status of said one of the storage devices to the one or more clients, wherein the object server and the one or more clients communicate via an object-oriented dynamic linking mechanism.

16. (Twice Amended) A method of managing a storage system by one or more clients including

a plurality of storage devices, the storage system communicating data to and from a plurality of host computers, wherein each host has at least one agent for communicating with the storage system, the method comprising:

providing a storage management server between

one or more clients and the plurality of storage devices,

providing to the storage management server from the at least one agent information relating to the configuration of the storage system;

collect, from the storage management server,

information relating to the configuration of the storage system; and

providing by the storage management server, the information to at least the one or more clients, wherein the server and the one or more clients communicate via an object-oriented dynamic linking mechanism.